

your tongues torn out; you will be hanged, beheaded, and quartered."

This philippic is worth quoting if only as an antidote to the still more violent philippic of Luther on the other side, to be noted presently. Such bitter, impassioned language implies a state of oppression which the chroniclers' denunciations of the popular restiveness fail to explain away.

These peasant programmes, whether purely agrarian or semi-political, do not exhaust the scope of the revolution. The poor man of the towns rose against his oppressor as well as the poor man of the country, and the civic proletariat are found fraternising with the peasants in the common endeavour to redress their grievances. All over the insurgent area the town proletariat swell the peasant bands in the crusade against class and wealth. Many of the towns had, in fact, a large rural population in their environs subject to their jurisdiction. Thus not merely the rural lord, but the town *Ehrbarkeit*[^] was called on to relinquish oppressive rights for the benefit of the common man. The common man in such towns—in Heilbron in Wiurtemberg, Rothenburg and Wiirz-burg in Franconia, Salzburg in the archdiocese of that name, Miihlhausen in Thuringia, Sec.—claimed the full right of citizenship, established a revolutionary committee in opposition to the town council, which was usually compelled to abdicate, demanded as a rule that all things should be common, attacked the corruption and maladministration of the town fathers, and insisted on the election of the council by all the citizens without distinction of wealth or class, and on the abolition of usury, monopoly, &c. In towns where the gilds were still held in subjection by the local patrician families, as at Miihlhausen, even the gildsmen are found allying themselves with the peasants and the proletariat. Miihlhausen, in fact, welcomed back its fugitive preacher, Mttnzer, and afforded him an opportunity of once more trying to inaugurate the reign of the elect. He and his fellow-exile, the ex-monk Pfeiffer, carried all before them, and united town and country, far and near, in the cause of ultra-radical, theocratic revolution. For in this Thuringian region Miinzer succeeded in engrafting on the movement his personal notion of a Christian commonwealth. Its root idea is a fantastic communism to be